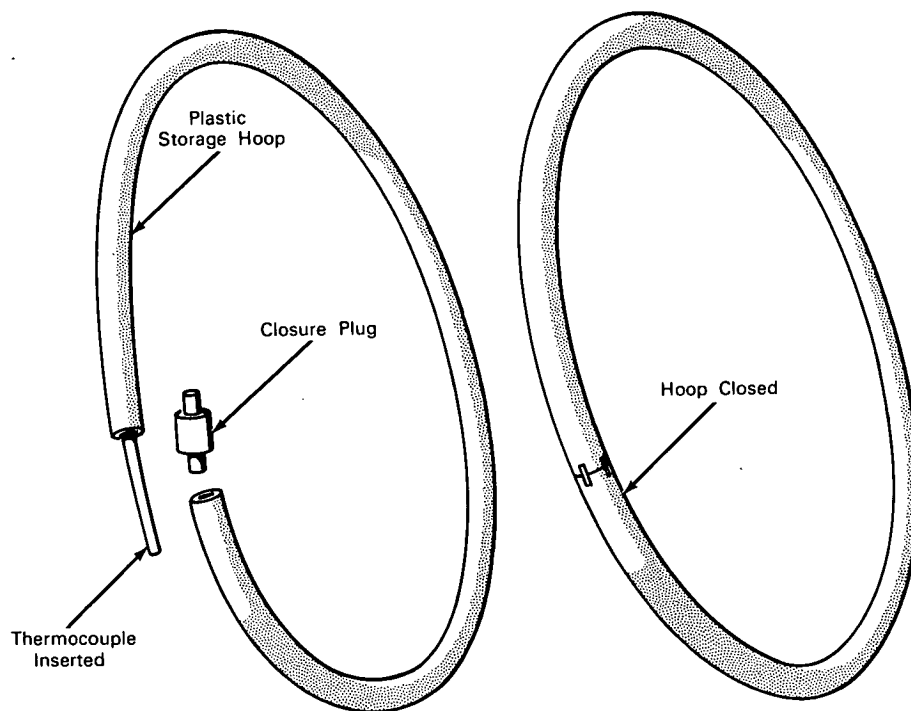


NASA TECH BRIEF



NASA Tech Briefs are issued by the Technology Utilization Division to summarize specific technical innovations derived from the space program. Copies are available to the public from the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, Springfield, Virginia, 22151.

Hollow Plastic Hoops Protect Thermocouple in Storage and Handling



The problem: To protect thermocouples while they are in storage or are being shipped or otherwise handled. The use of plastic bags for this purpose has proven unsatisfactory. The long, brittle leads are susceptible to breakage when bent below a certain radius.

The solution: A hollow plastic hoop or ring enclosing the thermocouple and its leads.

How it's done: The hoop is cut at one point and the entire thermocouple assembly is inserted. Excess

plastic hoop material is removed and a wood, plastic, or metal closure plug is used to seal the open ends and re-form the hoop. The diameter of hoop employed depends upon the thermocouple lead lengths and permissible bending radii. Different colored hoops are used to identify the different thermocouples being stored.

Notes:

1. Thermocouple assemblies typically cost \$15 to \$30, can cost as much as \$1200; on the average, this innovation costs less than \$1.

(continued overleaf)

2. Inquiries concerning this innovation may be directed to:

Technology Utilization Officer
AEC-NASA Space Nuclear Propulsion Office
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C., 20545
Reference: B65-10256

Patent status: NASA encourages commercial use of this innovation. No patent action is contemplated by NASA.

Source: L. H. Osmond of
Westinghouse Astronuclear Laboratory
under contract to
Space Nuclear Propulsion Office
(NU-0023)